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**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 100P306US01

First Inventor Michael J. Benson

Title METHOD OF VACUUM TUMBLING FOR PROCESSING MEAT

Express Mail Label No. EU941450896US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. Specification [Total Pages 21]
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets]
5. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]
 - a. Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)
 - i. **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

7. CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. Computer Readable Form (CRF)
 - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - i. CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. paper
 - c. Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement Power of
(when there is an assignee) Attorney
11. English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Copies of IDS
Citations
13. Preliminary Amendment
14. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
15. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16. Nonpublication Request under 35 U.S.C. 122
(b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.
17. Other:

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. /

Prior application information: Examiner: Group Art Unit:

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label	23322 <i>(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below
Name			
Address			
City	State		Zip Code
Country	Telephone		Fax
Name (Print/Type)	Robin A. Sannes		Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 45,070
Signature	<i>Robin A. Sannes</i>		Date 07/23/2003

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

17613 U.S. 555
10/6/2003
07/23/03

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FEE TRANSMITTAL

for FY 2003

Effective 01/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

 Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 880)

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	Even Date Herewith
First Named Inventor	Michael J. Benson
Examiner Name	
Art Unit	
Attorney Docket No.	100P306US01

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

 Check Credit card Money Order Other None
 Deposit Account:

Deposit Account Number
50-0549

Deposit Account Name
IPLM Group, P.A.

The Commissioner is authorized to: (check all that apply)

Charge fee(s) indicated below Credit any overpayments

Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application

Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	410	2252	205	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	930	2253	465	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,450	2254	725	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	1,970	2255	985	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	320	2401	160	Notice of Appeal	
1402	320	2402	160	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403	280	2403	140	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,300	2453	650	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501	1,300	2501	650	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	470	2502	235	Design issue fee	
1503	630	2503	315	Plant issue fee	
1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	40
1809	750	2809	375	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1810	750	2810	375	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801	750	2801	375	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity	Small Entity	Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)		
1001 750	2001 375	Utility filing fee	750
1002 330	2002 165	Design filing fee	
1003 520	2003 260	Plant filing fee	
1004 750	2004 375	Reissue filing fee	
1005 160	2005 80	Provisional filing fee	
SUBTOTAL (1)		(\$ 750)	

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
Total Claims	25	-20** = 5 x 18 = 90	
Independent Claims	3	- 3** = 0 x =	
Multiple Dependent			

Large Entity	Small Entity	Fee Description
Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	
1202 18	2202 9	Claims in excess of 20
1201 84	2201 42	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203 280	2203 140	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204 84	2204 42	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205 18	2205 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent
SUBTOTAL (2)		(\$ 90)

*or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

Other fee (specify) _____
*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 40)

SUBMITTED BY		(Complete if applicable)		
Name (Print/Type)	Robin A. Sannes	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	45.070	Telephone 612-331-7419
Signature	<i>Robin A. Sannes</i>	Date		July 23, 2003

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.27. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

IPLM Group, P.A.

P.O. Box 18455
Minneapolis, MN 55418
612-331-7400 telephone
612-331-7401 facsimile

PATENT

EXPRESS MAIL TRANSMITTAL LETTER

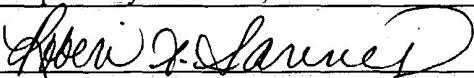
Attorney Docket No.	Serial No.
100P306US01	unknown

MS: Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In re Application of:	Michael J. Benson et al		
Serial No.:	unknown	Examiner:	unknown
Confirmation No.:	unknown	Art Unit:	unknown
Filed:	Even Date Herewith		
For:	METHOD OF VACUUM TUMBLING FOR PROCESSING MEAT		
We are transmitting the following documents:			
Return Postcard			
Utility Patent Application Transmittal [1 page]			
Fee Transmittal for FY 2003 [1 page] (in duplicate)			
Patent Application (17 pages specification, 25 claims and 1 page Abstract) [21 pages]			
Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney [3 pages]			
Recordation Form Cover Sheet - Patents Only [1 page]			
Assignment of the Invention to Hormel Foods, LLC [3 pages]			

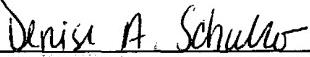
Please charge Deposit Account 50-0549 for any fees under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 that may be required during the pendency of this application. This authorization includes the fee for any extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a) that may be necessary. To the extent any such extension should become necessary it is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 45,070	Direct Dial 612-331-7419	
Date: July 23, 2003		Robin A. Sannes
United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer No. 23322		

Certificate of Express Mail

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10, I certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the date indicated below with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service addressed to: MS: Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Express Mail No.: EU941450896US	
Date of Mailing: July 23, 2003	Denise A. Schullo